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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

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Town celebrates Veterans Day in person

By Shelby Macri
smacri@turley.com

AGAWAM – The town of Agawam held a ceremony on Veterans Day, Wednesday November 11, at the Veterans Green in front of Phelps School. Residents, veterans, and those currently serving were invited, but had to stay at a safe distance.

Those who attended wore face masks the entire time, and while there were seats provided many families stayed standing while grouped together and social distant from other families and the chairs provided. The seats were also socially distant for those who chose to use them.

The Veteran's Council Chair, Aldo Mancini explained that he would try to keep the ceremony simple and short. In an attempt to honor and celebrate veterans, but also staying mindful of the current guidelines. There were only a few people in the gazebo at the green, and the chairs were spread out from each other to provided a safe distance.

The speakers consisted of Reverend Dr. Harvey Hill from St. David's Episcopal Church, Mayor



Kerri O'Conner, Fran Curnow, Frank Pignatere, Bob Rossi, John Bonavita, and Patrick Asta-Ferrero. Members from the Veterans Council laid the memorial wreaths at each monument and the bell tower. PHOTO BY SHELBY MACRI

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Keeping active: Physical education in a COVID climate

By Shelby Macri
smacri@turley.com

AGAWAM – The School Committee met on Tuesday, Nov. 10 to discuss updates regarding COVID-19 as well as physical education updates and a video. The committee members met in person while wearing face masks and sitting as far apart as they are able to.

Superintendent of Schools, Shelia Hoffman explained the schools had a two-week remote only period of time, as Agawam was recently listed in the red category. During the remote period, Hoffman tracked the number of positive cases and individuals in the Agawam School district.

"As of today, there are currently seven, as of the morning, and eight as

of this evening, cases in our schools. With no more than two in one building" Hoffman said. "Please note that the active cases we keep on our website includes remote only staff and students, and also those that have not been in our schools during their entire infectious period." Hoffman has been tracking the numbers and cases of COVID even before the two-week remote period, she's keeping on eye out for the towns staff and students.

Hoffman thanked the towns staff, students, parents, and teachers for adapting the the change in learning this year. She expressed that she knows it's been challenging for many people to deal with such a large change in learning and living, and she sees the work that everyone is

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Laser focused



Elizabeth Santore makes a play during a recent Agawam field hockey game. More photos on page 8. PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY

School is back in session

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – After a two-week hiatus, the Agawam Public Schools have returned to the hybrid model of learning with three groups of students going back to school full time.

In late October, Mayor William Sapelli and Agawam Schools Superintendent Sheila Hoffman made the decision to shut down schools and go to full remote learning for two weeks per an agreement with the Agawam Education Association.

The agreements states hybrid learning would be suspended in the event Agawam became a red community for at least two weeks, or the number of Agawam students testing positive for COVID-19 exceeded

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ARREST LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 432 calls for service from Nov. 9 to Nov. 15 and recorded the following arrests. No arrests in the public log have been omitted. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty.

Tuesday, Nov. 10

Chase R. Sardella, 59 Chestnut Lane, Agawam, was arrested at 6:56 p.m. on a default warrant for failure to appear in court.

Thursday, Nov. 12

Robert Anderson, Jr., of Amherst Avenue, Agawam, was arrested at 9:17 p.m. for failure to appear in court and possession of a Class C drug.

Virtual rally to replace church tradition

AGAWAM – Due to Covid-19, Sadly our eighth annual Faith on Fire Catholic Charismatic Rally had to be cancelled. The committee has worked together to bring you the Fire of Hope Virtual Catholic Charismatic Rally.

We are blessed to bring you Fr. David Aufiero from Holy Name Parish in Springfield as our main speaker along with Fr. Stan Achu, Deacon Andrew Hogan from Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish, Westfield and Lay witnesses

Wally and Barbara Daigneau from Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Southwick.

We have four Music Ministries to provide uplifting songs of praise; Jack Yourous and His Guitar from Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Carolee McGrath with Saint Cecelia's Praise and Worship Youth Band from Saint Cecilia Parish, Psalm 33 and Tom Fucci both from Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish. Please access this rally beginning Nov. 27 at 6 p.m. on www.you-

tube.com and do a search or www.SacredHeart-FeedingHills.org , there will be a link.

The entire Faith on Fire Catholic Charismatic Rally Committee wishes to thank everyone for their prayers and continued support for the success of the Fire of Hope Virtual Catholic Charismatic Rally....Our God is an Awesome God.... Praise be Jesus Christ....Now and Forever!

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putting into schooling during this time.

“In addition, we are coded yellow this week using the revised metrics from the state, therefore we will pivot back to in person learning on Monday, Nov. 16.” Hoffman said. “We will follow our hybrid model for pre-k and grades two through twelve.” She further explained that kindergarten and first grade students will receive full in person learning on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, with only three hours on Wednesday morning. This schedule also begins on Monday November 16.

The Agawam Schools Physical Education teachers teamed up to create a video to show the positive impact of P.E., the video also shows the committee how the classes are adapting to the state guidelines. P.E. teachers are taking advantage of having class outside when they can, separating kids by lining up cones, and setting up boundaries with hoopla-hoops.

Teachers from Doering explained that the department follows the current guideline, while also providing meaningful and engaging activities for the students. These activities include elements to help students critical thinking; where in one activity students have to run from one side of the basket ball court to the other. When they get there, the students have to tap their foot on a corresponding number and color when it's called out to them. Then they run back and repeat the process. The activity offers kids a physical outlet while still making them think.

The video also showed kids disinfecting

equipment that they used with their hands; while the staff explained that the pieces of equipment that are use are few times and they're cleaned after each use, after each class, and sometimes overnight by the custodial team. Also the equipment will be left out for 72 hours before it's used again if that's needed.

Teachers at each school have started to come up with activities that only include students using their feet, or a competition that can stay socially distant with hula-hoops. The students practice social distancing both inside and out, and are often wearing their masks during P.E. There are mask breaks, the kids often are outside as the weather allows it.

Teachers at one school started a challenge for their students, in order for them to stay active while at home. The Doering Milage Challenge is a way to motivate students to compete and to get family members active as well. It focuses on family activity and interaction. There is a log for students to fill out, it gives multiple boxes to record the necessary information. The log asks for the type of activity, running, walking, biking, or rollerblading, then the date, duration of time, total miles travelled, and a parent or guardian's signature.

The P.E. teachers of each school are working together as a team, and they each know that P.E. is good for stress relief, team building, and burning extra energy. With current guidelines the teachers are working hard to keep P.E. fun and engaging, while thinking out of the box.

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three percent.

Agawam met the first criteria, going into the “red” and being labeled a “high-risk” community for coronavirus transmission for two consecutive weeks.

However, on Nov. 5, the metrics changed, thus taking many communities, including Agawam, out of the high-risk category. Agawam remains out of high-risk and students returned to the hybrid format on Monday. The hybrid format includes half of students attending school in person two days per week while the other half attends two other days a week. Wednesdays, all students are remote.

The school district also rolled out a plan to return young students to school full time due to their low-risk for infection.

Hoffman announced on Nov. 10 that Agawam students could return to school on Nov. 16, with pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and first grade students going to school every day. For the time being, students in grades two through 12 will remain doing hybrid learning.

Hoffman added that as of Nov. 10, there were only seven cases within the Agawam school community, and there were no more than two in a building. There are no cases among the kindergarten and first grade students.

Hoffman did not specify if the seven cases involved students, teachers, or other staff. When cases are reported, however, contact tracing is done and individuals known to have contact with the positive tester are asked to quarantine as well.

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Sanchez concludes first half of Applause Series

AGAWAM – The Agawam Cultural Council's Applause Series concludes the first half of its 17th season on Friday, Dec. 4 with the broadcast of a concert recorded specifically for the series by classical guitarist Scott Sanchez. His Bach, Brubeck, Beatles, and Beyond will incorporate classical, jazz, and pop idioms into a varied program sure to please a broad spectrum of music lovers. The concert will be shown on the Town of Agawam's public access channel (Agawam TV15) at 7:00 pm and streamed from the "Watch" button on www.agawammedia.tv for those residing outside of Agawam. Those who wish to watch on a smart device at a different time should email r.kadis@comcast.net for a link for the performance.

Originally from Colorado, Sanchez's playing has been described as "Colorful and poignant" by Soundboard Magazine and "Very engaging, virtuosic and spirited" by David Leisner, Chair of the classical guitar program at the Manhattan School of Music. Sanchez has performed in Europe and throughout North America. His recordings cover a vast repertoire spanning the music of the Baroque era to modern day masterpieces. He has recorded music for the Contemporary Anthology of Solo Guitar Music published by Mel Bay Publications and he regularly arranges and composes for the guitar. His arrangements are available on Sheet Music Plus, a division of Hal Leonard Publications. Sanchez earned his Master of Music at the Yale School of Music and is currently a Lecturer in Music at Franklin Pierce University in New Hampshire.



The 2020 portion of the Agawam Cultural Council's popular Applause Series concludes on Friday, Dec. 4 with the broadcast of classical guitarist Scott Sanchez' Bach, Brubeck, Beatles, and Beyond concert on the Town of Agawam's public access channel at 7 p.m. The performance will also be streamed at that time. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Production sponsors for Scott Sanchez – Bach, Brubeck, Beatles, and Beyond are the Agawam Special Police and Chris and Sue Catjakis. The Agawam Cultural Council also thanks the Agawam Special Police, Elaine Carlson, Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi, and OMG, Inc. for their generous support as Applause Series season sponsors.

In lieu of the free will donations the Agawam Cultural Council (ACC) normally accepts at the conclusion of all its events, (which support fully 40 percent of the cost of each performance), the council asks viewers to consider making a properly "socially distanced" donation to support efforts to "Give Back to the Community" by visiting the ACC web site www.agawamcc.org and clicking on the green "Donate" button. A check in any amount, payable to the Agawam Cultural Council, may also be sent to: Agawam Cultural Council, Town Hall, 36 Main Street, Agawam MA 01001.

For more information on the activities and virtual offerings of the Agawam Cultural Council during the stay-at-home order, please visit their web site, www.agawamcc.org. The Agawam Cultural Council is an all-volunteer local partner of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and is funded, in part, by the MCC. The ACC is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining, and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities, and sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities.

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Positions open for ZBA

AGAWAM – Please be advised that there are two openings on the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals effective January 2021. The openings are for one regular position and one alternate position. Interested parties should contact Barbara Bard in the City Council Office at 726-9716 or send in a letter of interest to bbard@agawam.ma.us by Dec. 14, 2020.

Wednesday mass back at St. John

AGAWAM – All are welcome and invited to join us at St. John the Evangelist Church, 833 Main Street, for Eucharistic Adoration, Wednesdays, 12 noon to 5:45 p.m. with Holy Mass at 6:00 p.m. Come and spend some time in quiet prayer with our Lord Jesus Christ, present in the Eucharist.

Grange holding Holiday Bazaar

AGAWAM – Community Grange #382 of Feeding Hills will hold their Annual Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, Dec. 12 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Grange Hall located at 47 North West Street in Feeding Hills. All proceeds will benefit the building fund and the public is invited to attend. Please wear a mask and practice social distancing. Hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes will be available.

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Opinion

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

Questions about registering for Social Security

By Russell Gloor
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: I have a big 65th birthday coming up mid-March and would like your advice on registering for Social Security and Medicare. I am now unemployed, but I am seeking another gig to get me to age 67 before taking Social Security. Signed: Wondering Senior

Dear Wondering: You do not need to “register” with Social Security in advance. You don’t need to do anything with Social Security until you are ready to claim your benefits. Since you were born in 1956, your full retirement age (FRA) for Social Security purposes is 66 plus 4 months, and that is when you will be entitled to 100% of the benefit you’ve earned from a lifetime of working.

But you can, if you wish, also wait beyond your FRA to get an even bigger benefit. For each month you delay after your FRA you’ll earn Delayed Retirement Credits of .667%, which is 8% additional benefit for each year you wait. That can continue up to age 70 when your maximum benefit will be reached. In your case that would mean an age 70 benefit 29% more than your FRA benefit amount. But whenever you’re ready, you can apply for Social Security online at www.ssa.gov/retire (you must first create your “My Social Security” account to apply online).

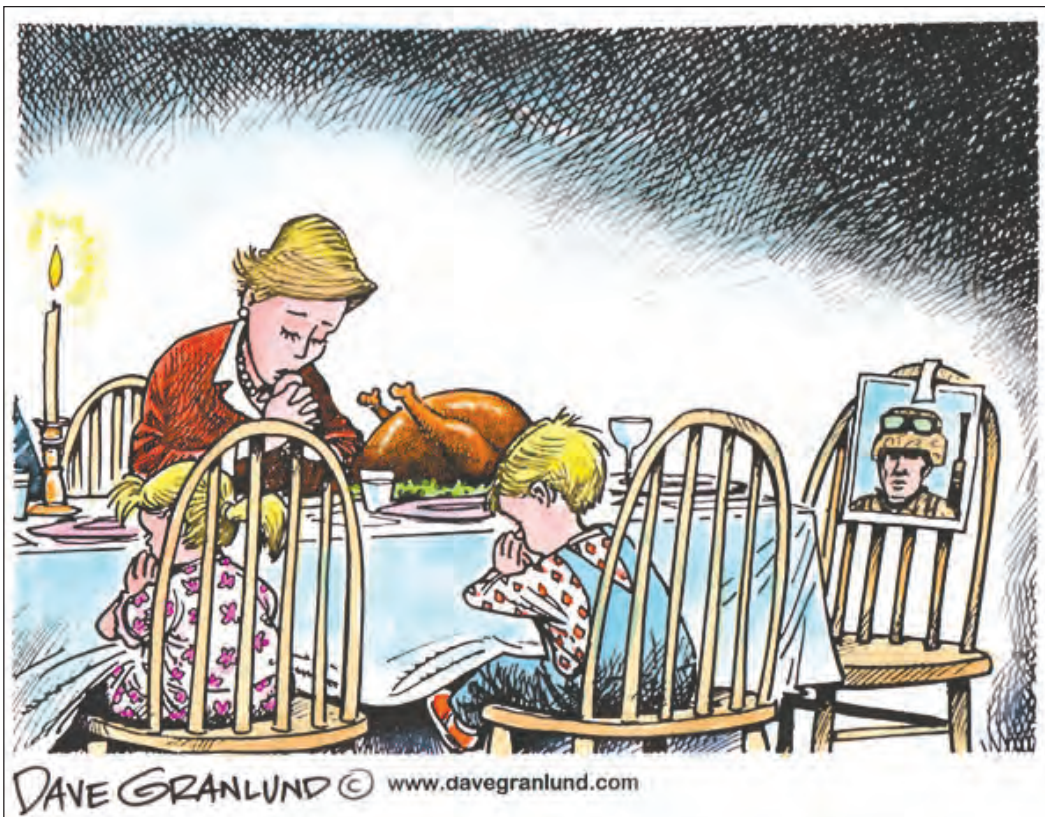
Medicare is an entirely separate program and, unless you have “creditable” employer healthcare coverage from a new job, you should enroll in Medicare a bit prior to your 65th birthday (“creditable” coverage is a group plan with at least 20 participants). This would be during your Medicare Initial Enrollment Period (IEP), which is a 7-month window starting three months before the month you turn 65 and ending 3 months after the month you turn 65. If you don’t enroll in Medicare during your IEP and enroll later, and if you didn’t have creditable employer healthcare coverage after age 65, you will be subject to a late enrollment penalty, which will permanently increase your Medicare Part B (and Part D) premiums.

Medicare Part B is coverage for doctors and outpatient services, and Part D is prescription drug coverage, both of which require a premium; Medicare Part A is hospitalization coverage which is free if you’re eligible for Social Security. If you have “creditable” employer coverage when you turn 65, you can simply delay enrolling in Medicare Part B until your employer coverage is about to end, or until after it ends during an eight-month Special Enrollment Period during which you can enroll in Medicare Part B without penalty. But for Part D prescription drug coverage, you must enroll in a private plan within 63 days of your 65th birthday, or the end of your employer drug coverage, or you will incur a Part D late enrollment penalty for enrolling later. And remember that Medicare late enrollment penalties never go away – they are recurring for the rest of your life.

The bottom line is this: you don’t need to pre-register for either Social Security or Medicare. You can simply enroll when you are ready for benefits to start (keeping in mind that for Medicare, you must have “creditable” alternative coverage after age 65 to avoid late enrollment penalties).

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation’s staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit the AMAC website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email AMAC at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



Wishing for winter squash

You should never take anything for granted, especially when it comes to the garden’s bounty. While it doesn’t seem possible to have 50 winter squash one year and none just a couple years later, that is the predicament I found myself in this fall. I thought I did everything right! I planted the seeds a day or two shy of Memorial Day in a sunny spot that had been fertilized and composted. The seedlings came up strong. I left a floating row cover over them until they were ready to bust through, preventing cucumber beetles from nibbling when they were most vulnerable. But alas, the drought came and with it a dry well. The plants became stressed. Some developed vine borer and/or powdery mildew. While it looked as if I would still get a harvest, this was just wishful thinking. Not long after setting the few fruits I had on the stone wall to cure, most began to rot. Once I realized that this is the way it was heading I gave the rest to the chickens; at least they got to enjoy them.

Gratefully my mom will provide the coveted butternut squash for Thanksgiving dinner. There is an easy way to prepare it without peeling and chopping! Simply wash the squash and cut it in half length-wise. Then, scoop out the seeds and bake cut-side down on a greased cookie sheet or in a casserole dish. At 375 degrees, a butternut can take anywhere from 40 minutes to one hour to cook. Test by inserting a fork into the thickest part of flesh; if it goes in easily, it’s done! Scoop out all of the flesh, even the caramelized parts, and mash with a fork or an immersion blender depending on how chunky (or not!) you like it. Season it to taste with cinnamon or better yet, pumpkin pie spice. And if you have a sweet tooth, try adding maple syrup or brown sugar; or even a bit of molasses. A little butter helps too!

IN THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid

Did you know that you can substitute home grown cooked winter squash for any recipe that calls for canned pumpkin, even pumpkin pie? Most folks know that it is squash inside the can anyhow....sweeter and less stringy than their pumpkin cousins. While butternuts are my favorite to grow, I do also like the ‘Delicata’ and ‘Sweet Dumplings’ for taste. They are rich with a depth of flavor. I just wish they were more productive. One plant produces three fruits at the most.

I think I am going to give squash growing a break for a year. Maybe the borers will go away and I’ll be blessed with a good harvest sometime in the future. It would be really sad to think my squash growing days are over. That makes me think about what I should be grateful for this year, garden-wise. Kale, spinach and the cut flowers come to mind... ah, the flowers. I am especially excited about my growing dahlia collection. It would be fun to trade tubers and share the wealth!

But alas, I digress...Let’s get back on topic. Don’t feel the need to gobble up your butternut squash bounty in a hurry; this type of squash has been known to keep through spring and beyond if stored in a dry, 55-degree location. For me, the mudroom has always worked out well to store my winter squash. My mom, on the other hand, has good luck placing hers in trays off the floor in her basement. Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.

Grant application deadline extended

AGAWAM – With a mandate to distribute state monies via a grants process, the Agawam Cultural Council is seeking grant requests from local community-oriented programs in arts, humanities and sciences in need of funding. The Agawam Cultural Council FY2021 grant season started Thursday, Oct. 1, 2020 and has been extended to Monday, Dec. 14, 2020 as the postmark deadline for organizations, schools and individuals to apply for grants that may support or provide cultural activities for the Agawam community. According to Council spokesperson Bob Kadis, these grants can support a variety of artistic projects and activities in Agawam -- including exhibits, festivals, short-term artist residencies or performances in the schools, workshops, lectures or historical interpretation.

Notably, the Council also encourages funding requests from schools and youth groups to cover ticket and transportation costs for field trips for school-age children.

For more information, Local Guidelines and FAQ’s can be found at this site:

<http://www.mass-culture.org/Agawam> by clicking on the “Council Priorities” tab.

Information about the ACC’s Grants program can also be found on the ACC’s own website at: agawamcc.org.

The FY2021 allocation amount has not been determined as of this writing. But what we do know there is \$3,300 of unencumbered funds left over from the FY2020 grant season. The MCC FY2021 allocation plus the unencumbered funds will make up the total grant amount for FY2021. The total grant amount will be posted on our website when we know it. Note, the MCC FY2020 allocation was \$17,200.00 and when added to the FY2019 \$615.00 unencumbered funds made for an available total grant amount of \$17,815.00 for FY2020.

If you have questions about the online application process, you may contact the Massachusetts Cultural Council’s Lisa Simmons at 617-858-2707 or at lisa.simmons@state.ma.us -- or ACC chair Bob Kadis, at 413-789-4814 or at r.kadis@comcast.net.

An online application process will become available Thursday, Oct. 1, 2020. The Agawam Cultural Council will not accept paper applications. To apply for a grant, please visit: <http://www.mass-culture.org/Agawam> and click “Apply Now.”



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Online Soldiers' Home tribute successful

HOLYOKE – In honor of Veterans Day, the Holyoke Soldiers' Home Coalition has created an online virtual tribute to honor and remember veterans who died from COVID-19 while under the care of the Soldiers' Home as well as veterans at the home who died from other causes during the pandemic.

The Coalition tribute can be viewed at <https://www.holyokesoldiershomecoalition.org/in-tribute>

With consent from family members of the veterans, the Coalition included images, a short narrative, and a link to a funeral notice or obituary for the public to learn about the veteran's life and service to the nation.

The Coalition will also include photos and information on any current veteran resident who is at the Soldiers' Home. To date, the Coalition has documented the names of 32 veterans whose family members have confirmed died of COVID-19 while residents of the Home and another 5 veterans who died from other causes. In

addition, the Coalition tribute lists one current resident of the Home.

"Our Coalition hopes the public takes the time this Veterans Day to remember all of these veterans – all were sons and daughters of our Commonwealth who left home at an early age to serve our great nation. For those who have died during this pandemic, we ask that you think not only of their passing but also remember the glory of their spirit."

Family members of any veteran who died from COVID-19 while under the care of the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke or of current residents who would like the veteran's name listed should contact the Coalition by sending an email to holyokesoldiershomecoalition@gmail.com.

The Coalition was formed in June this year when a group of family members of veterans who died of COVID-19 joined with members of the veteran community in western Massachusetts to advocate for significant improvements to the current Soldiers' Home.

Juried photography show announced

AGAWAM – The Friends of the Agawam Public Library are very excited to announce their First Open Juried Virtual Photography Show. We are not able to have our annual show at the library, but we want to continue to share the outstanding work of area photographers. The show benefits the Agawam Public Library and provides a platform to recognize and encourage these photographers. Awards totaling \$1340 will be determined by judging done on January 13. Amy S. Dane and Barbara Krawczyk, both well recognized photographers, will be the judges.

The show is divided into four categories

of photography: creative, nature, photo-journalism and pictorial. The entry fee is \$25 per entry up to and including November 30, 2020. Starting December 1, the fee will be \$30. If we have not received sufficient entries by January 1, 2021, the show will be cancelled and all fees returned.

All images must be original, made by the photographer, captured by film or digitally, and cannot be previous entries in our show. For the show's Prospectus and Entry Form, please visit www.agawamlibrary.org/about/friends. For further information please contact Bob Kadis at r.kadis@comcast.net or at 413-789-4814.

COVID-19 testing spot changed at HCC

HOLYOKE — Starting Friday, Nov. 6, the location of free drive-through COVID-19 testing at Holyoke Community College will shift to parking lot H near the western entrance to the Donahue Building.

The change is being made to prepare for the cold weather months, according to the Holyoke Board of Health.

Hours and days of operation will not change. Testing will continue at least through the end of December.

HCC has been serving as a "Stop the Spread" drive-through testing site since Aug. 26 to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. Previously, testing was conducted in parking lot M near the Bartley Center for Athletics and Recreation.

Drivers are now being asked to enter the campus from Homestead Avenue, then turn left onto the Campus Road and proceed to parking lot H. There will be signs and parking attendants on site to manage the flow of traffic.

A map with the new traffic pattern and testing site location is posted on the Holyoke Board of Health website: <https://www.holyoke.org/hcc-covid-testing-site-to-change/>.

The HCC testing site is open Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.; and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Information about closing due to inclement weather can be found on the Holyoke Board of Health website.

Testing is free to all Massachusetts residents and conducted on a first-come, first-serve basis. There are no appointments and no referral is necessary.

Turnaround time for results is typically four days or fewer.

More information on all of the Stop the Spread test sites across the state can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/stop-the-spread>

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VETERANS DAY ■ from page 1

William Sapelli, and State Representative Nicholas Boldyga. Not including Aldo Mancini who maintained the event, and introduced those involved.

Both Sapelli and Boldyga kept their speeches short while commending and admiring those who served, they thanked the veterans in attendance and gave a word to those who weren't.

"If you haven't yet, I recommend you take some time after the ceremony to look at the plaques," Sapelli said. "They list those residents who have served, and we owe them a great debt of gratitude."

Each speaker involved in the ceremony gave thanks to those who have served and explained that it's important to remember those who have passed, but it's also important to commemorate those with us today and among the community who have served.

"Veterans fought for us and for our rights, because of our veterans we live freely today," Boldyga said. "We need to take care of our veterans."

Members of the Veteran's Council laid ceremonial wreaths at the bell tower and separate monuments of the Agawam Veteran War Memorial in the Veterans Green. Each monument has plaques with the names of Agawam residents who fought for the country, and plaques around the sides of the bell tower. After the wreaths were laid members of the American Legion lead the firing detail in honor of those who have fallen. Veterans Council Vice Chair, Frank Mazzei did the tolling of the bell to honors veterans as well.

Mancini spoke about the importance of remembering and celebrating veterans, especially during this time of uncertainty. He kept the ceremony short as promised, and afterwards residents dispersed quickly.



Vice President of the Veteran's Council, Frank Mazzei did the tolling of the bell during the ceremony. PHOTOS BY SHELBY MACRI



State Representative Nicholas Boldyga, R-Southwick, gives his remarks.



A wreath is laid in front of the bell tower.



Reverend Dr. Harvey Hill speaks to open the ceremony.



There was a socially distant crowd that attended the gathering, everyone in attendance wore masks and quickly dispersed afterward.



Ceremonial wreaths were laid on each standing monument.

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- **Wednesday, November 18 at NOON** for The Register, The Wilbraham-Hampden Times, Agawam Advertiser News and Sentinel
- **Thursday, November 19 at NOON** for Barre Gazette, Quaboag Current, Country Journal, The Journal Register and Ware River News
- **Friday, November 22 at NOON** for Town Reminder, The Holyoke Sun and Chicopee Register



From left; City Councilor Bob Rossi, Chris Sanchez USMC, State Representative Nicholas Boldyga, City Councilor George Bitzas, Senior Chief Jeff Gregus, Petty Officer First Class Tim Moore, Frank Pignatere, John Bonavita, Veterans Council Chair Aldo Mancini, Patrick Asta-Ferrero, Fran Curnow, Richie Girard, and Kerri O'Conner



A crowd gathers for a ceremony on Veteran's Day, at the Veterans Green.

NAMI support group changes schedule

Staff report

REGION – The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI-WM) of Western Massachusetts would like to inform the public that our NAMI Connection Recovery Support Group schedule has changed again due to COVID-19.

- Mondays from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

access online with zoom: <https://bostonmedicalcenter.zoom.us/j/955331152>

access by phone: 1-646-558-8656 (meeting ID: 955 331 152)

- Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.

access online with zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/859002245>

access by phone: 1-929-205-6099 (meeting ID: 859 002 245)

- @home Connection Support Group

First and third Thursday of the month from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

access online with zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84883272163>

more information about NAMI Mass @home: <https://namimass.org/nami-mass-home/>

- Fridays at 10:30 a.m.

access online with zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/621974217>

access by phone: 1-929-205-6099 (meeting ID: 621 974 217)

A diagnosis is not required to attend any group. Anyone with mental health condition is welcome to attend any group without prior registration.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Western Massachusetts is dedicated to helping improve the quality of life for indi-

viduals and families affected by mental illness through support, education and advocacy. According to statistics, 1 in 5 Americans will face mental health problems every year. With your help, NAMI can continue its work as America's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness.

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Church to hold tag sale

AGAWAM – There will be a huge Christmas Tag Sale at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St., on Nov. 20 and 21 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. All types of Christmas items: ornament, dishes, home decor and more. Face coverings must be worn and social distancing guidelines will be in place.

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SPORTS

FIELD HOCKEY

Brownies defeated by Westfield



Nina Liquori makes the stop. PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Emmerson White pushes a pass through midfield.



McKenzie Roy attempts to stop an opponent's progress.



Elizabeth Santore winds up for a free hit.

AGAWAM – The Agawam High School field hockey team had a tougher end to its season, including a pair of losses against Westfield. On Thursday, Nov. 5, Agawam was defeated 5-2. Mia Wood scored both goals for Agawam with Elizabeth Santore getting assists on both scores.



Margaret Johnston chases down a loose ball.

FALL SPORTS

Fall season concludes for high school teams

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – The Massachusetts High School fall season wraps up at the end of the week, it could be largely seen as a massive success as many teams were able to play in athletic contests for the first time in more than six months.

High school athletics were forced to shut down indefinitely following the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic. For Massachusetts, it occurred during the semifinals of the state basketball tournament and all state semifinal winners were considered co-champions and the state championship games were not played.

Following that, spring sports were delayed a few times, before sports and school overall, were called off for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, leaving spring athletes graduating with no final season.

With the pandemic still ongoing, but numbers of positive tests dropping to nearly 0.8 percent, high school sports were allowed to resume with modified rules, few fans, and a limited schedule that introduced the concept of bubble play, something that could be considered tough for Western Massachusetts teams, which are used to leagues that are put together based on level of competitiveness in order to maintain balance in most sports.

Most soccer, field hockey, and girls volleyball teams that participated had 10-12 contests scheduled, and for the most part, those contests were played.

Many schools developed a schedule that went from Oct. 1 to about Nov. 6. The final two weeks of the season were reserved for makeup games if schools had to shut down operations or for any other postponements.

While there has been a major

spike of cases and several communities went “into the red” under the state metrics measuring coronavirus transmission risks, most schools were able to get most of, if not, their entire seasons played.

There were just a few schools with some remaining games this week, including Pathfinder, Ware, and Palmer. Quabbin, Quaboag, North Brookfield, and Tantasqua also had a few remaining contests to play this week after some Central Mass. teams had to shut down their play.

Athletes persevered through the modification of play. More than anything, they had to get used to ramping up to heavy running while wearing masks, a rule that had to be enforced strictly due to the insistence of local health directors in order to control communities from any major spreads.

WINTER UPDATE

Sport-specific guidelines still to come for winter sports

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – The full Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs updated guidelines were released by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association were released late last week.

The MIAA and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has been working with the EEA obtain guidance and follow protocols in order to get student-athletes back on the field.

In August, the EEA deemed basketball, football, soccer, wrestling, lacrosse, cheerleading, and ice hockey as high-risk sports.

As a result of that designation, contests in those sports were not allowed, and summer basketball and soccer leagues were completely shut down.

Soccer was able to return

during fall sports with major modifications to play, especially a low-level of contact and mask-wearing by all participants.

But it is still unknown exactly what guidelines will be made in order to make basketball and ice hockey playable. As of now, the EEA is allowing Level 3 play, which permits contests between schools, but does not allow for tournaments. The MIAA officially cancelled the winter tournaments recently and the season is supposed to end on Feb. 21, 2020.

Basketball and hockey both involve sustained high contact. In the case of basketball, there is also a lot of sweating that spreads between players through close contact and the basketball itself. During the fall season, girls volleyball, the only indoor sport played during the season, rotated

Sports

MASCAC cancels college winter sports season

WESTFIELD – The NCAA has released winter sport guidelines and the state of Massachusetts recently updated their winter sport policies. After an in-depth review of the information from the state and NCAA, consultation among the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC) Presidents, athletic directors, and athletic trainers and after exhausting all possibilities, including a review of the risks involved, the eight MASCAC Presidents have made the difficult decision to cancel all winter sports competition. This includes the sports of men’s and women’s basketball, men’s ice hockey and men’s and women’s indoor track and field.

Similar to the fall sports, the state universities are planning to provide winter sport student-athletes with on-campus, in-person practices, conditioning and training opportunities throughout their traditional season to support their physical and mental well-being. These practice and training opportunities will not use a year of NCAA Eligibility and will be done in compliance with the campus, state, federal and NCAA COVID guidance and protocols.

“The MASCAC Presidents have been continuously observing the pandemic and guidelines from local, state, federal and

NCAA officials which has led us to the decision to cancel winter sports competition during the spring semester,” said Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts President James Birge, Chair of the MASCAC Council of Presidents.

Affiliates will be able to schedule non-conference contests at their discretion.

“We explored countless scenarios to find a safe path forward with the evolving recommendations and policies from the NCAA and the state for our winter sport student-athletes,” said MASCAC Commissioner Angela Baumann. “After consultation with our medical staff and athletic directors, the MASCAC Presidents came to the conclusion there is not a way to ensure the safety of our student-athletes and staff with off campus winter competition, the risks are far too great.”

Throughout the 2020-21 academic year, the MASCAC will be celebrating its 50th anniversary with special features, facts and trivia commemorating the event. Our conference has a rich history of success on the playing field and in the classroom. Over the academic year, the conference will be highlighting the student-athletes, teams, coaches, and administrators from the last 50 years.

WINTER UPDATE ■ from page 8

a new volleyball before each play. That may not be feasible in the faster moving game of basketball.

Wrestling will not be allowed to compete in school-to-school competition but will be allowed to practice. There can be some intrasquad contests among individual teams, but no other competitions will be allowed at this time. It is unknown if wrestling could take place in the bubble season, as football will be the prevalent sport during that season and many wrestlers also play football. .

Football is still scheduled to take place in late February through mid-April in what is being called “Fall 2” or a bubble season. Football and cheerleading are both supposed to take place in that season.

With talks of a vaccine now emerging during the past week, it is very possible

that there could be modifications to each sports as the vaccine becomes more widely available and individuals are vaccinated for COVID-19.

The EEA is mandating face coverings for all sports with the exception of swimming. Swimming is also supposed to be able to take place, but with modifications made to limit the number of participants in a pool area.

The PVIAC only allowed home fans at outdoor contests during the fall with some schools allowing no fans at all for various reasons, including the ability to control attendance. A few schools allowed one guest per home athlete in volleyball, while most did not allow any fans. It is unknown whether any fans will be permitted at basketball and hockey contests.

FALL SPORTS ■ from page 8

While there have been major outbreaks the state government has attributed house parties, there were not any known cases of major outbreaks among high school sports teams. There were some isolated cases and games postponed due to contact tracing leading to some quarantining, but no major sickness among the teams.

The season was also made very successful by a coordinated effort among athletic directors to have proper protocols in place and staff to help enforce mask-wearing and

social distancing. Soccer and girls volleyball had extra staff used to clean and sanitize game balls. Girls volleyball cycled in new balls on every play.

The season unfortunately concluded without any tournaments for the first time in years. This would have been the final year for state-sanctioned sectional tournaments. The state is still scheduled to go to a statewide tournament format next fall, when hopefully a full, normal season will be played.

Tryouts wrapping up for Pioneers

LUDLOW – WUP FC is excited to hold WINTER TRYOUTS for the 2020-2021 season. Tryouts are for Boys and Girls of all age groups (2012 - 2002 birth years). An open house for younger ages can be scheduled upon request.

Developmental Academy: players born in 2013-2015

First Kick: players born in 2016

Tryouts remaining will be held Nov. 19 and Nov. 20 at Lusitano and Ana Dias Middle fields. There are various tryout times

for age groups and more information can be found at www.westernunitedpioneers.com. This registration session will allow you to complete contact information, and sign up for participation. Please read through each page carefully to ensure that all information is provided accurately.

We want to create the safest environment for your player due to COVID-19. Each player should bring water, a ball, shin guards, and wear a mask.

Help feature your student-athletes

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

The fall season is nearing its end and Turley Publications has been all over the action.

But with this unpredictable season there have been temporary or in some cases, permanent stoppages in play, and we still want to help feature your athletes, especially those who are seniors this year.

We continue to ask for help on this season in order to bring the best coverage we can possibly manage and fill our pages with names and color.

We know that fans will be limited to the home crowds, but that is where you all come in.

We have a limited number of staff to start the school year due to the pandemic, and while we strive to get to as many games as possible, we cannot get to everywhere.

If you are a parent, coach, or even player, and you have information or

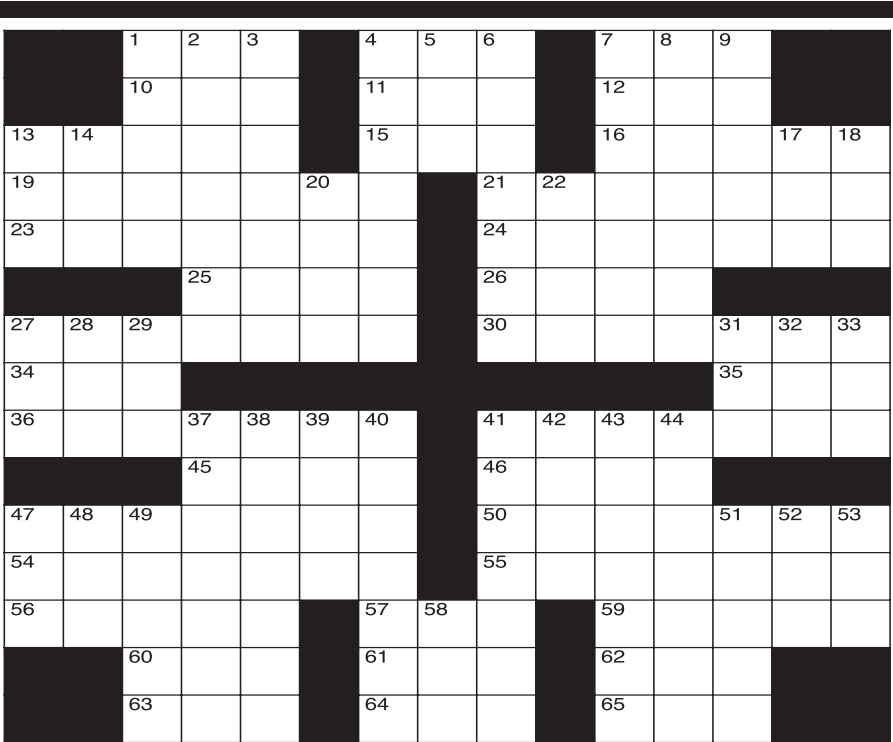
photographs to share, we definitely want to hear from you.

If you don’t see one of our photographers at a game, please feel free to send your own action photos of games in order to bolster our coverage. If you are interested in regularly submitted photos, please do contact us.

Otherwise, we would love to hear from anyone who reports scores, details, and any milestones that occur during this unprecedented season. Please be sure the information you provide us is accurate and check with coaches, if necessary, before submitting.

Additionally, with the various senior games that have been held already or are still waiting to be held, we welcome submitted photos from those events and information about graduating seniors who participated in Fall 1 sports.

We also encourage all coaches to submit their results and details as much as possible. Send any and all information and photos for inclusion to sports@turley.com.



- CLUES ACROSS**

 - 1. Autonomic nervous system
 - 4. At or near the stern
 - 7. Adenosine triphosphate
 - 10. Polynesian garland of flowers
 - 11. Chinese revolutionary
 - 12. Green veggie
 - 13. Large group
 - 15. Swiss river
 - 16. Semiaquatic mammal
 - 19. Wrongdoers
 - 21. Home to Disney World
 - 23. Spanish doctors
 - 24. Newborn child
 - 25. Absence of difficulty
 - 26. Large, stocky lizard
 - 27. Earned top billing
 - 30. A long wandering
- and eventful journey

 - 34. Water (French)
 - 35. Brew
 - 36. Winged horse
 - 41. A usually malignant tumor
 - 45. Alfred __, American actor
 - 46. Austrian river
 - 47. A reminder of past events
 - 50. Connected with
 - 54. Status
 - 55. Dean residence
 - 56. Egyptian city
 - 57. Boxing’s GOAT
 - 59. Straits along the Red Sea
 - 60. “The Partridge Family” actress Susan
 - 61. Get some color
 - 62. Facilitates hearing
 - 63. Commercials
- 64. A team’s best pitcher
 - 65. Patti Hearst’s captors

CLUES DOWN

 - 1. Speak up
 - 2. More informative
 - 3. Where passengers sit
 - 4. Gathered
 - 5. Supervises flying
 - 6. Home of the Blue Jays
 - 7. Public statement of regret
 - 8. Lockjaw
 - 9. Indian city
 - 13. Patriots’ Newton
 - 14. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
 - 17. Sun up in New York
 - 18. Eggs in female fish
 - 20. Stood up
 - 22. NBA legend Willis
 - 27. Calendar month (abbr.)
- 28. Exercise regimen __-bo
 - 29. The 8th month (abbr.)
 - 31. __ Paulo, city
 - 32. Tall deciduous tree
 - 33. Affirmative
 - 37. Notified of danger
 - 38. NFL game days
 - 39. Archaic term for “to”
 - 40. Plant pores
 - 41. Canned fish
 - 42. Phil __, former CIA
 - 43. Connects with
 - 44. Of the skull
 - 47. Time zone (abbr.)
 - 48. When you hope to get there
 - 49. Hindu goddess
 - 51. Land
 - 52. Pitching stat
 - 53. Field force unit
 - 58. Lakers’ crosstown rivals

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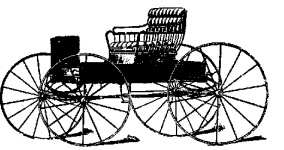
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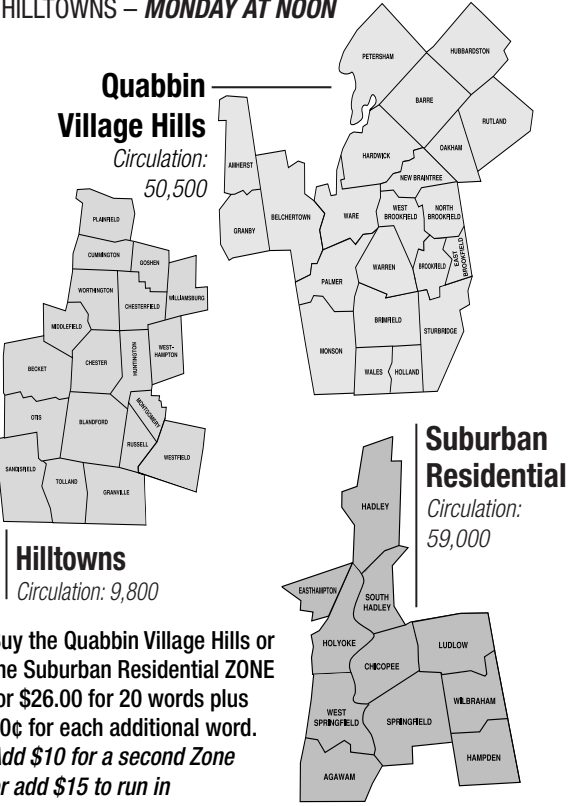
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31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Price \$32.00
33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00
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Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____
Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____

First ZONE base price _____ Includes additional words
Add a second ZONE **\$10.00**
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TOTAL Enclosed _____

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Notice of Private Sale
Notice is hereby given by USA Towing, 71 Garden St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030, sale of a motor vehicle pursuant to the provisins of M.G.L. C. 255, Section 39A, that on December 04, 2020 at 8:00 a.m., at USA Towing, said motor vehicle will be sold at a private sale to satisfy the garage keeper's lien for towing, storage and costs of sale.

2006 Nissan Frontier
VIN: 1N6AD07W56C415905
No Plates
Last known reg. owner: Jean Tailleir
104 Norfolk St.
Springfield, MA 01119
11/12, 11/19, 11/26/2020

**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF AGAWAM
PLANNING BOARD**
The Agawam Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, December 3, 2020 at 6:00 PM** to hear the petition of Agawam Mayor William P. Sapelli on a proposed Zoning Amendment entitled "Marijuana Manufacturing License Exemption". Due to the COVID -19 restrictions, the meeting will be held remotely through Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86409469499?pwd=Z0g4QkNhSndtK3JlUnB1ci9wRyszd09>
Webinar ID: 864 0946 9499, Passcode: 823145.

Copies of the proposal can be obtained from the Agawam Planning Office at pkerr@agawam.ma.us
BY ORDER OF:
Mark R. Paleologopoulos,
Chairman
Agawam Planning Board
11/19, 11/26/2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD20P1933EA
Estate of:
Frank Charles Sacco
Also known as:
Frank C Sacco
Date of Death: 04/25/2020
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **James S Sacco** of Springfield, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that: **Jennifer Sacco** of Suffield, CT and **James S Sacco** of Springfield, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said est-

ate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **an unsupervised** administration.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/14/2020.**
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of

assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 06, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
11/19/2020

**LEGAL NOTICE
PUBLIC HEARING
AGAWAM
CITY COUNCIL**
The Agawam City Council will hold a public hearing on **Monday, December 7, 2020 at 7:00 P.M.** in the Auditorium at the Agawam Junior High School, 1305 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the petition of Agawam Mayor William Sapelli on a zoning amendment to Chapter 180, Section 147 of the Code of the Town of Agawam (TOR-2020-6). Any member wishing to provide testimony during the Public Hearing on TOR-2020-6 may do so by dialing **1-978-990-5187** and using access code **8476635** followed by # sign. **Calls must be made at 7:05 p.m. to provide testimony.** This remote public hearing will be live-streamed on the Town of Agawam's website at **www.agawam.ma.us** and will also be televised on Cable Access Channel 15. TOR-2020-6 is available for public inspection by emailing the office of the

City Clerk for an electronic copy at **vgioscia@agawam.ma.us**
BY ORDER OF:
Christopher C. Johnson
City Council President
11/12/, 11/19/2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD20P1900EA
Estate of:
Daniel William Riopelle
Date of Death: 04/09/2017
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**
A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Campagnari Construction LLC** of Springfield, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of**

12/04/2020.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 30, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
11/19/2020

MORE LEGALS | page 12

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FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

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LEGALS ■ from page 11

LEGAL NOTICE
PUBLIC HEARING
AGAWAM
CITY COUNCIL

The Agawam City Council will conduct a Public Hearing on **Monday, December 7, 2020, at 7:00 pm**, in the auditorium at the Agawam Junior High School, 1305 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA to consider the adoption of a Residential Tax Factor pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 56 as submitted to the City Council by the Mayor on November 12, 2020.

Any member wishing to provide testimony during the Public Hearing on TR-2020-

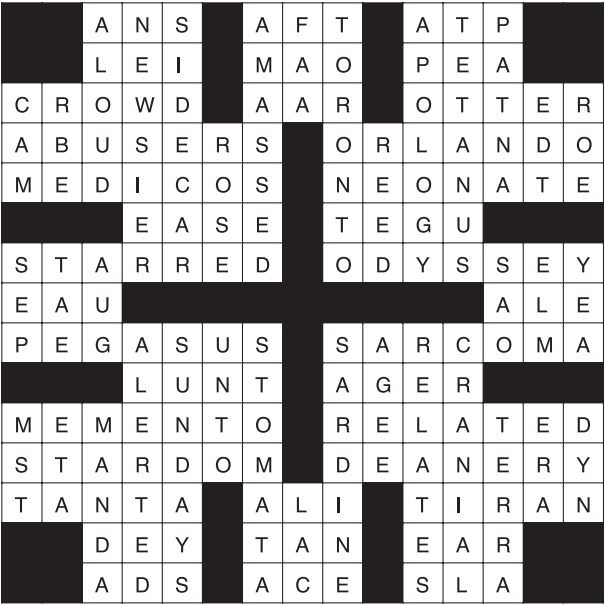
75 may do so by dialing 1-978-990-5187 and using access code 8476635 followed by # sign. **Calls must be made at 7:05 pm** to provide testimony. This remote public hearing will be live-streamed on the Town of Agawam's website at www.agawam.ma.us and will also be televised on Cable Access Channel 15. TR-2020-75 is available for public inspection by emailing the office of the City Clerk for an electronic copy at vgioscia@agawam.ma.us

BY ORDER OF:
Christopher C. Johnson
President of the City Council
11/19, 11/26/2020

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All legal notices to be published in the Agawam Advertiser News should be sent directly to notices@turley.com. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Jamie Joslyn directly at 413-283-8393, ext. 216.

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